

APPROVED October 15, 2012

**MINUTES
REGULAR PARK BOARD MEETING**

September 12, 2012

Present:

Lee Campbell
Kelly Dupont
Jamie Godshalk
Dan Hartman
Karen Feldman, Trustee Liaison – left at 9:20 P.M.
Jennifer Hughes, Director of Public Works
Brad Burke, Village Manager
D. Scott Phippen, Streets/Parks Superintendent

Absent:

Ken Borgerding, Chairman
Ted Heiser

Location: Village Hall, One Olde Half Day Road, Lincolnshire, Illinois 60069

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Director of Public Works Jennifer Hughes called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. Mr. Campbell motioned, seconded by Ms. Dupont, to appoint Mr. Godshalk as Chair Pro-tem. The motions approved 4-0.

2.0 ROLL CALL

Director of Public Works Hughes called roll and determined a quorum was present.

3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 A motion was made by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Ms. Dupont, to approve the minutes from the September 12, 2012 Park Board Meeting. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

4.0 RESIDENT COMMENTS AND REQUESTS

4.1 None.

5.0 RECREATION

5.1 Consideration and Discussion of Lincolnshire Sports Association Request to Change Field Usage Fees (Lincolnshire Sports Association)

Dave Keevins, President of LSA, outlined the changes that LSA has made in the last few years to address market dynamics, changing demographics, and quality improvements.

Mr. Keevins explained that LSA faces competition from many other organizations which are competing for participants. There are now 10 travel soccer programs within a five mile radius of Lincolnshire.

He provided the following enrolment statistics from School District 103.

Year	1st Grade Enrollments	8th Grade Graduates
04-05	172	213
05-06	160	203
06-07	166	216
07-08	165	229
08-09	159	221
09-10	152	188
10-11	151	204
11-12	159	198

According to Mr. Keevins, LSA has responded to market demands by making the following changes:

- Rebranded the name of the organization from Spring Lake Sports League to Lincolnshire Sports Association to reflect the concept that Spring Lake Park is not the center of attention anymore.
- Upgraded website.
- Hired an employee to handle scheduling, maintaining website, ordering uniforms, etc.
- Upgraded instructors by employing professional coaches: Slammers for baseball, Lincolnshire Lightning for soccer; Ed Fairly for basketball.
- Hired patched referees for basketball and higher level baseball while still

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using teenagers to referee soccer and junior baseball.

- Obtained access to control the lights at North Park to reduce costs.
- Monitor fields at North Park and provide updates to hotline if fields are closed due to inclement weather.
- Place field striping on weekends when Village staff is not available.

Mr. Keevins declared that the fields are spectacular. The players get spoiled by playing there.

LSA recognizes that the Village controls North Park, but due to LSA requirements, there is limited time available for other organizations. LSA uses the fields each weeknight evening and weekend mornings throughout most of the year.

LSA has participated in several community projects over the past few years:

- “Best Buy” donated \$1,000 to LSA to assist with the clean-up of North Park in 2011.
- LSA paid to install scoreboards at local schools.
- LSA paid to resurface the Daniel Wright and Half Day School gym floors.
- LSA instituted an afterschool program for 60 kids in the spring of 2012.
- LSA facilitated the Village approving field use time for the 7th and 8th grade Stevenson High School baseball feeder team at North Park. Although only 1-2 Lincolnshire kids participated in the program, Mr. Keevins stated that this was the right thing to do. The Stevenson varsity baseball coach gave a clinic a few years ago.
- LSA obtained volunteers through Stevenson High School’s U-Give program.
- LSA participated in Boo Bash.
- LSA gave \$30,000 to the Run-for-the-Fields program at Daniel Wright.
- LSA placed floats in the 4th of July parade and sponsored the zip line.
- LSA has hosted a “Hot Dog Day” and “ice cream social” for its members.
- LSA hosted a seminar each for its Board, coaches, and parents as part of a “positive coaching alliance.”
- LSA gathered 2,000 pieces of athletic equipment and donated it to 3 inner-city communities through its “Pass It On” initiative.

Mr. Keevins then provided an update of LSA’s sports programs. He stated that

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baseball has struggled, necessitating the need to partner with surrounding communities. For example, the 18 girls who signed up for softball were placed onto two teams which now compete against teams from surrounding communities.

To address the needs of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students, LSA started a coed kickball program that now serves 90 kids.

LSA has developed partnerships to support its programs. Soccer equipment is purchased from Soccer Madness which passes along discounts. The Chicago Magic provide premium indoor practice time at the Highland Park indoor bubble in exchange for access to North Park. The Batter Box has a similar arrangement for baseball equipment. Dick Sporting Goods donated baseballs and scorebooks.

Mr. Keevins explained that LSA's charge to participants has changed over the years. For example, the LSA charged soccer players \$115 in 2010, \$150 in 2011 and \$175 in 2012. Basketball increased from \$125 to \$135 to \$150 in the same years. Baseball increased from \$120 to \$150 to \$175. LSA has also implemented a \$35 fee for late registration. LSA believes that it cannot raise fees anymore. Families that have multiple children playing sports are particularly challenged by these increases.

He requested that the Village reduce the per participant rate from \$35 per season to \$15 per season for all sports except co-ed kickball which would be reduced to \$10 per participant per season. He noted that the \$20 drop per participant would mean little to the Village but would be a tremendous savings for LSA. He weighed in on Trustee Saltiel's suggestion at a prior Village Board meeting that the Village consider not reducing the rate but rather providing LSA with a block grant. Mr. Keevins stated that LSA did not support this approach and believed that it would be cleaner simply to reduce the rates.

Mr. Campbell asked how much patched referees cost. Mr. Keevins responded that kids get \$20 game and patched referees are paid \$65-\$80 per game. He stated that house league soccer and baseball use kid referees while travel soccer and baseball and all basketball programs have patched referees. The kid referees are typically in 7th and 8th grade with some high school students. Mr. Campbell thought that there is a benefit to the students to be a referee.

Ms. Dupont acknowledged that the price increases were large. She appreciates having this information from LSA. She thanked Mr. Keevins, the coaches, and volunteers for all that they do.

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Trustee Feldman stated that kick ball rates should be cheaper since there are no practices. She suggested that the fee should be based upon the sport, citing that the 5th and 6th grade baseball teams only played two games in Lincolnshire. She noted that soccer tends to be harder on the fields, and perhaps the fee should be higher.

Mr. Godshalk inquired as to LSA's financial position in light of adding employees and expenses over the past few years. Mr. Keevins replied that it is LSA's intention to break even each year. LSA now has approximately \$25,000-\$30,000 in overhead each year for insurance, employee, audit, website, and subscription in the Positive Coaching Alliance. He acknowledged that the total Village fee has remained steady over the past few years at around \$20,000-\$35,000 per year.

Mr. Godshalk asked where the savings of \$20,000-\$25,000 if the Village reduces the fees will be utilized. Mr. Keevins responded that the savings could be applied to starting lacrosse, field hockey, or other programs. Mr. Godshalk then asked if expenses are greater than the fees to which Mr. Keevins responded that they are still looking at this issue. Mr. Godshalk wondered if LSA could accept a reduction to \$30 per participant. Mr. Keevins replied that a drop of \$5-\$10 "won't move the needle". He elaborated by saying that LSA needs professional coaches as there are fewer volunteers. Mr. Godshalk requested that LSA come back with specifics on what the savings would be spent on. Mr. Keevins said that LSA could do that, but that the organization feels pressure to lower rates. Some families are spending a lot of money to utilize the fields.

In response to Mr. Godshalk's inquiry as to what LSA's gross expenditures are, Mr. Keevins put forth that a reduction in fees of \$20,000-\$25,000 would place LSA in the black for baseball and soccer. While he afforded that LSA could pass the reduction onto participants, he was not going to commit to that without knowing all of LSA's expenses. There are many capital projects that LSA would like to fund such as replacing the gym floor at Sprague School. He believes that LSA could put together a wish list of \$100,000 worth of improvements. Mr. Godshalk pointed out that the Village has been concerned with its own finances the past few years and has deferred improvements at parks. He is concerned that the Village has cut back on environmental work. He thinks LSA is doing a good job, but that the people paying the fees are receiving the benefits. Mr. Keevins stated his belief that the Village Trustees seem to agree with the reduction in the fees.

Mr. Hartman began by saying that he has two kids in the soccer program—a first grader and a third grader. He pays \$150 per child, \$70 of which goes to the Village. With softball and baseball, he pays \$500 for travel leagues. The \$35 participant rate

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does not bother him; taxes should be lower. He believes that not reducing the rate will be not a deal breaker. He is fine with charging more to outsiders. Mr. Keevins added that the fees are a big chunk of LSA's expenses.

Mr. Godshalk continued that the message from the Village Board has been to squeeze funds. Trustee Feldman acknowledged that, but noted that the Village Board asked the Park Board to come up with a dream list of improvements at the parks. Mr. Keevins added that LSA has covered the difference on batting cages and has bought more goals for the Daniel Wright fields. He added that an extra baseball field would be great. He would like to see a hockey rink at North Park, but he is not going to ask for that. Trustee Feldman commented that the Village does not expect LSA to pay for all maintenance, citing that the Village doesn't charge LSA to utilize Old Mill Park.

Ms. Dupont said that it is good to hear that things are being done. She is concerned that the Village will lose residents if it does not have a good sports program. She is not so concerned if the Village is going to use the money from the differential in rates.

Mr. Keevins claimed that LSA is the de-facto Park District. He asked, "If LSA folds, who will do the work?" There will be no place for the kids to play organized sports. LSA has taken over scheduling of the field and the hotline. Trustee Feldman noted that Park Districts tax everyone for what they provide. Mr. Keevins responded that LSA's work is unappreciated by the Park Board. LSA takes pride in what they do and are very frustrated.

Mr. Campbell asked about affiliates. Mr. Keevins explained that the affiliates get a reduced rate. They work in partnership with LSA to provide services. Examples include Brian McBride and Slammers.

Member Godshalk put forth a motion to reduce the participant fee by \$5 next for the next playing season with consideration for additional reductions in future seasons. The motion died for lack of a second. Mr. Godshalk then added that LSA did not articulate an intermediate position. He does not know how the savings will be utilized. He suggested that perhaps the rate could be reduced \$5 per year for several years, but he is uncomfortable with making any recommendations for a significant reduction.

Mr. Godshalk wondered if LSA is breaking even now, what would the savings be used for. Mr. Keevins countered that LSA cannot identify where the savings will be

utilized. LSA is breaking even because it raised its rates from \$115-\$175. The organization is not-for-profit. It is improving schools, providing equipment, and supporting community events.

Ms. Dupont declared her support for the reduction in the Village's rates for LSA. She said that Lincolnshire cannot afford to lose people to other communities. She believes that not reducing the fees by \$20 will be a deal breaker for some families and added that we all need to work together.

The following motion was made by Mr. Campbell and seconded by Ms. Dupont:

The Park Board recommends approval to the Village Board to reduce the fee for Lincolnshire Sports Association from \$35.00 to \$15.00 per participant for all sports except kickball, which should be \$10.00 per participant.

Ayes: Members Campbell and DuPont; Nays: None; Abstain: Members Godshalk and Hartman. Having failed to obtain the majority, the motion failed. Thus, there is no recommendation from the Park Board concerning this matter.

In explaining his reasons for abstaining, Member Godshalk reiterated LSA's testimony that it is financially breaking even under the current fee schedule. He stated that LSA would neither commit to a reduction in fee charged to the participants nor specify for which projects it would use the savings (if the fee was not reduced). Therefore, he believed that there was insufficient information to support LSA's request for the reduction to \$15.

Member Hartman stated that he did not believe that the \$20 reduction would be a "deal breaker" for residents deciding whether to pay the fees for their children to participate in an activity.

6.0 **PARKS**

6.1 Consideration and Discussion of a Request by the Lincolnshire Sports Association for Capital Improvements at North Park (Lincolnshire Community Association)

The Chair Pro-tem opened this item concurrently with Agenda Item 5.1. For more information, see above.

7.0 OLD BUSINESS

7.1 Continuing Consideration and Discussion of an Environmental Action Team (Member Jamie Godshalk)

Mr. Godshalk spoke with Mr. Jeff Weiss to learn about the Buffalo Grove Action Team. That program has approximately 100 members, 20 of whom are active. The program has been around several years and hosts 12-14 events per year. Events include invasive species control and native plant installation. The group is an off-shoot of the Park District. Mr. Godshalk requested the Park Board to support Lincolnshire's group. The group would be a loose-knit organization that is not looking for public funding. Rather, it is seeking support in putting out public notices of work days. Mr. Campbell stated that the Village should explore supporting this group. Ms. Dupont observed that the group would be less formal than the Garden Club. She suggested that Mr. Godshalk present at the Lincolnshire Council of Presidents in order to get out information regarding events.

7.2 Continuing Consideration and Discussion of Evaluation of Equipment for Replacement Process (Village of Lincolnshire)

Streets/Parks Superintendent Pippen responded to the Park Board's request for more information on how the Village determines whether equipment needs to be replaced. In the early 1990s, the village put together a replacement schedule for equipment: 5 years for 1-ton vehicles; 7 years for other vehicles, and 15 years for 2-ton trucks. Other equipment is replaced based upon wear-and-tear.

Mr. Hartman inquired as to whether the Village could use a tractor with an 11-12 foot deck instead of the riding mower. Mr. Pippen responded that with such a configuration would work at North Park, but that it would not be feasible at Whytegate and Spring Lake Parks.

Mr. Pippen requested that Mr. Hartman review the specifications for future equipment purchases to which Mr. Hartman agreed to do so.

8.0 NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Introduction of Lincolnshire's New Village Manager, Brad Burke (Village of Lincolnshire)

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Director of Public Works Hughes introduced Lincolnshire's new Village Manager, Brad Burke. Mr. Burke started in August. He previously worked as the Village Manager of Kennilworth.

8.2 Consideration and Discussion of a Recommendation to the Village Board to Purchase the Property Located at 51 Londonderry Lane (Village of Lincolnshire)

Chair Pro-tem Godshalk informed the Park Board that a real estate sign has gone up at the property located at the intersection of Lincolnshire Drive and Londonderry Lake (51 Lincolnshire Drive). He contacted the realtor and was told that the property owner is "flexible on price."

The following motion was made by Mr. Godshalk and seconded by Mr. Campbell:

The Park Board recommends to the Village Board that the Village take another look at purchasing the property located at 51 Lincolnshire Drive.

The motion passed 4-0: AYES: Madam Dupont, Messieurs: Campbell, Godshalk, and Hartman. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Chairman Borgerding, and Mr. Heiser. ABSTAIN: None. Chair Pro-tem Godshalk declared the motion carried.

9.0 **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

9.1 None.

10.0 **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Harman, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was accepted by unanimous voice vote. Chairman Pro-tem Godshalk declared the meeting adjourned at 9:50 P.M.